

Washington, DC – New Jersey is home to a \$38 billion tourism industry driven largely by the Shore and a \$2 billion fishing industry. Congressman John Adler, who represents one of the state's five major commercial fishing ports, Barnegat Light, and the Toms River and Long Beach Island coastline, today released the following statement concerning President Obama's Oval Office address concerning the environmental disaster in the Gulf of Mexico.

"An oil spill off the coast of New Jersey threatens local jobs, our robust tourism and fishing industries and a way of life for families living in the shore area. Offshore oil rigs have no place off the coast of New Jersey.

As our country struggles with a runaway federal deficit, the taxpayer should not foot the bill for BP's arrogance and laziness. Middle-class families and seniors should not contribute a dime to the costs of the clean up. BP created this mess, and must be held responsible.

Our federal government must provide better leadership dealing with the present and future environmental and economic disasters. The federal government sat idly by and allowed BP to police itself while reaping huge profits. We cannot tolerate a response which allows fishermen and tourism-based small businesses to pay the price for BP's negligence and greed. Our families deserve and demand accountability and transparency over the oil industry.

New Jersey Democrats and Republicans have consistently worked together in opposition to offshore drilling. I pledge to work with Governor Christie and other community stakeholders to make sure a disaster such as this never adversely affects the Jersey Shore and our economy."